

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-05

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7019

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12046

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TGEN, SENV, PFOR, UR, US

SUBJ: US-USSR COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS: SCHEDULING OF JOINT
COMMITTEES (JCM'S); ENVIRONMENTAL JCM: ONE POSSIBLE REASON FOR UR-
GENCY OF ISRAEL'S QUESTION

REF: MOSCOW 11939

1. BRITISH SCICOUNS THYNNE HAS PROVIDED US WITH FOLLOWING INFOR-
MATION CONCERNING SCHEDULING OF US-SOVIET ENVIRONMENTAL JCM.
THYNNE STATED THAT ANGLO-SOVIET JOINT COMMISSION HAD ORIGINALLY
BE SCHEDULED TO START 6 DECEMBER IN LONDON, BUT THAT SCHEDULE
PROBLEMS AMONG BRITISH PARTICIPANTS
HAVE MADE THAT TIMING UNWORKABLE. BRITISH HAD SUGGESTED TO
SOVIETS THAT SCHEDULING OF THEIR JCM TAKE PLACE STARTING 29 NOVEM-
BER, WITH ONE ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP MEETING TAKING PLACE
ONE WEEK EARLIER (WEEK OF 22 NOVEMBER).

2. ACCORDING TO THYNNE, SOVIETS (HYDROMET) RESPONDED ABOUT TWO
WEEKS AGO TO BRITISH SUGGESTION THAT SUCH TIMING WOULD BE IMPOSS-
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IBLE IF ISRAEL'

WAS BUSY WITH OTHER MEETINGS, AND THAT THAT PERIOD WAS "RESERVED" FOR THE U.S. - SOVIET JCM. ACCORDING TO THYNNE, KAZAKOV OF HYDROMET SAID THAT TRAIN (USEPA) CANNOT COMMIT TO TIMING OF JCM BECAUSE OF "PROBLEMS ARISING FROM U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS." THYNNE SAID THAT BRITISH ARE VERY EAGER TO FIX TIMING OF JCM TO ADVANCE PREPARATIONS, AND THAT THEY HAVE EXPRESSED THIS DESIRE TO SOVIETS.

3. ALTHOUGH HE WAS UNSURE OF THE TIMING OF THE MEETINGS, THYNNE SAID BROWN (EPA) HAD "RECENTLY" DISCUSSED THIS QUESTION WITH OFFICIALS OF BRITISH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT.

3. COMMENT. BRITISH PRESSURE ON HYDROMET FOR CONFIRMATION ON THEIR JCM MAY WELL BE MAJOR FACTOR FOR SOVIETS' PUSHING QUESTION AT THIS TIME (REFTEL), DESPITE APPARENT SOVIET (OR HYDROMET, AT LEAST) BELIEF THAT U.S. ANSWER WILL NOT BE IMMEDIATE.
MATLOCK

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